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10/31/03

AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Page 4, paragraph of lines 14-17:

Ther term "protection layer" refers to a material, film, layer or complex that is transparent or translucent and may allow energy to pass through it. In particular, this layer need not be completely contiguous, but it must be capable of preventing quencher molecules from reaching the ~~acceptor~~ donor molecules of the surface coating.

21 + 33, 34, 35 - for use in 11

In the claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** An encapsulation vesicle, comprising:
   (a) a matrix having a surface;
   (b) a surface coating on said matrix, wherein said surface coating ~~includes~~ comprises a fluorescent donor molecule; and
   (c) a protection layer encapsulating said surface coating that permits at least partial transmission of fluoresence emission from said fluorescent molecule upon irradiation of said fluorescent molecule.

p.6, p.8

for protecting said surface coating from a quencher molecule. + contains an acceptor molec.

C1 a ligand attached to said prot. layer

2. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises a sol-gel material.

3. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises silica and synthetic polymer.

4. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said fluorescent molecule is an organo-metallic complex, and wherein the matrix surface is modified with carboxyl groups so that the organo-metallic complex can be covalently attached to the matrix surface.